

Unit Overview: Parent Guide

Conservation, Grade 8

What is the goal of this unit?

Your child will read fiction and nonfiction texts about the beauty of the natural world and the duty of mankind to leave resources for future generations.

What topics and skills is your eighth grader learning in this unit?

- Nature
- Conservation
- Nature and mankind
- Natural resources
- Author's writing craft
- Information writing
- Research
- Speech writing and technique

What tasks will your child engage in to help them consider the topics and skills of this unit?

- **Culminating Writing Task:** Your child will bring together all her learning near the end of the unit by writing an essay in response to the prompt: *How does Roosevelt make connections between conservation and the progress, patriotism, and morality of the American people?*
- **Extension Task:** Your child will extend her learning by conducting research on a modern conservation group and writing an essay that explains how the group's values and goals support the conservation movement of today and finally, writing and delivering a speech as the leader of the organization about their goals and the importance of their work in our community today.

Your child will read these texts and watch these videos:

Text Title	Author/Source	How it is used in the Unit
" <i>Conservation as a National Duty</i> "	Theodore Roosevelt	Main text of the unit
"Theodore Roosevelt and Conservation"	National Park Service	Student text
"The Conservationist"	Theodore Roosevelt	Student text

	Association	
<i>The Life and Letters of John Muir</i>	Edited by William Frederic Badè	Student text
"Autumntime"	A. Lentini	Student text
"Requiem for a Nest"	Wanda Coleman	Student text
"Birdfoot's Grampa"	Joseph Bruchac	Student text
"American Flamingo"	Greg Pape	Student text
"Bookstand: Audubon's Birds and Words"	Thomas Uskali from Louisiana Cultural Vistas	Student text
<i>The Mountain Trail and Its Message</i>	Albert W. Palmer	Student text
<i>Roosevelt, Friend of the Birds</i> Part 1 (video)	Roosevelt Memorial Association Library	Read aloud
<i>Roosevelt, Friend of the Birds</i> Part 2 (video)	Roosevelt Memorial Association Library	Read aloud

Ideas for discussing conservation and the beauty of nature

- Look around your community, what's the natural environment?
- What is beautiful about the nature in your community?
- What is an experience you've had where you've been able to take in the beauty of nature?
- What can you do to improve the quality of nature in your community?
- What does it mean to conserve something?
- Why is it important to conserve nature?
- What are some ways you can practice conserving nature at home?

Want to deepen your and your child's knowledge on the topic being studied?

Here is a suggested book list:

Title	Author
Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion	Loree Griffin
The Frog Scientist	Pamela S. Turner

Project Seahorse	Pamela S. Turner
Going Blue: A Teen Guide To Saving Our Oceans, Lakes, Rivers, & Wetlands	Cathryn Berger Kaye

What does independent reading look like at home?

Independent reading gives your child the opportunity to read and interact with books that are on her reading level and that address topics that she chooses. Supporting independent reading at home helps build your child's confidence with reading, her reading stamina and reading achievement, and will help her do better in school.

Here are some ways you can encourage independent reading at home:

- Let your child pick out books that she finds interesting
- Prioritize reading. Protect time every day for reading. Before bedtime is a great time to read!
- Read together
- Read aloud
- Discuss what you're reading. Ask questions like:
 - Tell me about what you read today.
 - What did you like about it?
 - What didn't you like about it?
 - What did you learn?
 - What questions do you have about what you read?
 - What didn't you understand about what you read?
 - What do you want to learn more about after reading?
 - How does what you've read connect to other things you've read?